Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 /098 W

R 201125Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4433

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CONFIDENTIAL KHARTOUM 1716

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, SU, ET

SUBJECT: ERITREAN DIALOGUE

REF: ABU DHABI 1491

1. WE WERE STRUCK BY SENTENCE PARA 4 REFTEL RE SUDAN GOV EFFORT ASSURE EPF DOES NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN SUDANESE POLITICS. DURING RECENT FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE IN PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY ONE MEMBER EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER SUDANESE INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS ANOTHER AFRICAN COUNTRY WHICH HE SAID RESULTING FROM SUDAN GOV SUPPORT FOR ERITREANS. HE ALSO WARNED THAT BY ARMING ERITREANS WHO CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESENT IN SUDAN, GOVERNMENT RAN RISK OF CREATING SITUATION ANALOGOUS TO ARMED PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON.

2. COMMENT: PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, AS EXPECTED, OVERWHELM-INGLY ENDORSED CURRENT SUDAN GOV FOREIGN POLICIES INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR ERITREANS. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, NO ONE SUPPORTED LONE MEMBER'S CAUTINARY ADVICE. HOWEVER,

HIS VIEWS ARE SHARED BY OTHERS, NOTABLY WITHIN FOREIGN MINISTRY. ALTHOUGH FONMIN MANSOUR KHALID, NOT TO MENTION NIMEIRI HIMSELF, DISTINGUISHES ERITREAN CASE AS INTERNA-TIONAL ISSUE WHICH HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN UN, THERE ARE SOME SUDANESE WHO ARE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH WIDER IMPLICATIONS SUPPORT FOR ERITREANS, PARTCIULARLY IN AFRICAN CONTEXT. SUDANESE RECALL FOREIGN SUPPORT FOR SOUTHERN INSURGENTS HERE AND SOME OBSERVERS FAIL TO SEE ANY MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SUDAN'S SUPPORT FOR ERITREA AND ANGOLA'S SUPPORT FOR SHABA INSURGENTS IN ZAIRE, WHICH SUDAN GOV OPPOSES. MOREOVER, SABBE REMARKS (REFTEL) AND THOSE OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MEMBER SUGGEST THERE SOME NERVOUSNESS OR CONCERN OVER PRESENCE ARMED ERITREANS IN SUDAN. IT HAD BEEN OUR IMPRESSION SUDAN GOV KEPT CLOSE CONTROL OF ARMS, MAKING THEM AVAILABLE TO ERITREANS ONLY AT BORDER AND NOT RPT NOT WITHIN SUDAN ITSELF. **BOGOSIAN**

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